

The Trail Blazer

OFFICIAL OAGAN METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION - ORKLAND, CALIF

Volume 6

DECEMBER, 1946

Number 12

OF DIRECTORS FOR 1947

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SUCCESSFUL BANQUET

Although confronted with problems of many kinds and and varieties, including the last-minute postponement of the banquet originally scheduled for Thursday, December 5th, at the Hotel Leamington, Archie Brown and his committee came through with a dinner party reputed to be one of the best ever held by the association.

A wonderful time was had by all present—during the very sociable cocktail hour which preceded the dinner as well as during the dinner and dancing that followed.

THANKS SHOULD GO TO:

ARCHIE BROWN and COMMITTEE for their time and energy in planning and carrying out the affair.

FRANK COLBOURN, for doing such a grand job of presiding at the banquet.

DON MARQUIS, Chairman of the Membership Committee, for dragging the membership booth out to the Leamington and gathering and receiving applications.

STANLEY COSCA, for announcing the officer nominations for 1947.

Treasurer MARTIN MURRAY, for his accounting and reporting of the finances.

COMMITEE CHAIRMAN for the fine reports given for the year 1946.

AND TO THE

Lariettes, Rangers, Sheriff's Posse, Boots & Jeans Club,
The Wildwood Stables, The Pinto Stables, The
Leona Stables, Don Evans' Group, Green Barn
Stables, Piedmont Stables, The Big Bear Group,
the 106th Avenue Group, Cressmount, and the
privately-owned stable riders for their enthusiastic
attendance.

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METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASS'N.

MARY GALE, Secretary 6053 Chabot Rd., Oakland 11, California

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in General Fund, Nov. 26, 1945- RECEIPTS:	-\$733.65
Dues from memberships	1 448 00
Trail Donations	78.00
Trail Blazer Ads	1,097.28
Activities	258.88
Activities	200.00
TOTAL	2,882.16
\$	3,615.81
EXPENDITURES:	
Membership (printing, etc.)	215.86
Trails	519.53
Trailblazer	1,453.68
Activities	
Calif. State Horsemen's	41.40
Miscellaneous	93.06
Secretary, printing, supplies	501.26
TOTAL	9 100 70
TOTAL	3,169.76
Balance in General Fund, Nov. 30, 1946-	\$446.05
TRAILBLAZER SPECIAL ACCOUNT:	
Accrued earnings for 1945\$	1.795.66
Cost of printing and mailing to date	1 453 68
	1,100.00
\$	341.98
1945 BALANCE	480.81
_	

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Blanche Paul TRAIL A MONTH

Isn't the above an enticing vista? Doesn't it tempt you to head your favorite mount down that trail? You'll find this view at the intersection of the West Ridge and Redwood Peak Trails, on a high point that overlooks the old racetrack. The photograph was taken a couple of months ago on one of the windiest, sunniest days imaginable. Notice the movement of the leaves.

I headed down this trail on December 5 with a little misgiving because of the recent heavy rains. Parts of Redwood Peak trail were graded late in

the summer and the dirt left very loose.

Redwood Peak trail winds down the hill deep in the shade of redwoods, and runs into Redwood trail a short distance before it enters the Stream trail. I turned right onto the Stream trail and followed down the canyon to the Fern Trail. Then turned right again and climbed to the top of the ridge. If you feel like I do about the sun, if you like to get about all that is available this time of year, that short dip into the shade will be long enough to give variety to the ride, and it will make the sun look even better to you. Turn right again when you reach the West Ridge trail and by riding up hill less than a half mile, you'll reach the starting point again.

I love this particular spot. What a gorgeous view! Ridge after ridge stretches south as far as you can see. Mt. Diablo towers over surrounding hills to the east and all are already carpeted with the delicate new green that heralds spring even before the end of the year.

Hats off to Jean Finney and Mae Murray. I met them riding in the rain a few weeks ago, and obviously enjoying it. Yes, I admit it-I was in a car. I'm more-or-less a good weather rider, so I'm afraid this will be the last Trail a Month by Blanche Paul-at least for awhile. Happy Holi-

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THE ROVING REPORTER

Jack Tann and Dr. Clarence Hass recently went in together to purchase an Arabian mare with a two-and one-half month old filly at her side. The mare, Monica, by name, was bought from Mrs. Lanagan's Arabian farm at San Ardo, California, although she was bred at the well-known Kellogg ranch. The filly at her side was sired by Ghaznas and has been named Hastan, a combination of the names of the present owners. Monica is again in

foal to Monterey, a chestnut Arabian stallion.

The Tanns feel as though they have just lost a
member of the family. Peggy, a twenty-one year old mare, owned by the Tanns for fifteen years,

died last week.

Blanche and Stewart Paul also joined the horse buyers recently. They purchased the old saddlebred show mare, Rhythm Girl, from the L. D. Lockwoods of Atherton. Rhythm Girl won the Junior five-gaited championship on the coast as a four-year-old, and added many other blue ribbon to her record before being retired as a brood mare. She has thrown four fine colts, one of them, a chestnut mare, Juanita's Rhythm, is owned by Mrs. Bee McKechnie. The mare was bred to Red Kalarama, Mrs. W. P. Roth's fine stallion, last spring, so there are high hopes at the Paul estab-lishment. Carole Lombard once owned Rhythm Girl, a gift from Clark Gable.

RED GATES OF RIFLE LANE: A grand time was had by horses and riders from Red Gates at the recent Cow Palace Horse Show in San Francisco. Idiot's Delight came away with first in the Middle and Heavy Weight Hunters, fourth in Hunt Teams, and eighth in the \$1000 Stake. Cover Girl and Lady Weston were awarded second place in the class for Hunt Teams. This team, made up of Lady Weston, Cover Girl, and Golden Blonde, received a great hand from the spectators. Top hunters of the West Coast were present to offer strong competition.

A delightful "opening night" cocktail party was held in the Red Gates Tack Room with many competitors and friends present. All wished each other the "best of luck" and good riding. Credit for the Tack Room decorations must go to Deane Burton, who supervisored and planned the decorations. Of particular interest were the two lovely paintings which hung on the wall -La Zova Moon, formerly owned by the Burton family, and the other of Lady Weston. Both pictures were painted by Elise Mesquita's grandfather.

The Grand National brought to a close the 1946 showing of the well-known horses of Red Gates. However, both horses and riders are looking forward to the first show of the 1947 season. THAT'S REAL HORSE SHOW SPIRIT FOR YOU!

WILDWOOD RANCH: A swell ride was enjoyed recently by a group of riders from Wildwood Stables. Lunch was taken along, with the result that the ride turned into one of those enjoyable all-day affairs.
The "WELCOME" mat is out at the Wildwood

Ranch for Lem and Carol Whooten who are now stabling their horses back at the Wildwood again.

Everybody enjoys having them back.
That unusual sight you see on the trails is Carol Blanche taking Harold Cummins American

saddlebred stud on the end of a rope out on the trails for exercise. Some fun!

Charlie Hall is having a great time taking "Tim" (Johnnie Currip's Arabian horse) over the jumps!

They say the horse is doing fine!

HERE AND THERE: The two bay mares belonging to the Alberts announce a change of address — Bad Penny and Pepper are now being kept at Mr. Nev's new Redwood Barn.

Miss Graham announces a change in the rhone number of her stables. The number is now ANdover 4585! And very important, too, is the announcement that script books are again available. These may be had for \$12.00—have you ever thought of giving one to a friend for a birthday

present?

CRESSMOUNT STABLES: The "squeaking" heard around Cressmount Stables is from the 14 new Pariani saddle, for which Miss Cornelia Cress acted as agent. The happy owners are: Sally Allen, Bud Bahnsen, Mary Gale, Pat Gorie, E. C. N. Hawkins, Elizabeth Harrison, Mary Lou Hutton, Phil Johnson, Winifred Johnson, Sandra Logue, Mollie Mulford, Helen Shafer, Bob White, and Mrs. Judy White. Mr. James Ormond has already taken the "birdie" out of his new Pariani which was in the first shipment to this country from Milan, Italy.

Additions to Cressmount Stables are: Strongbow, also called P. F. C., I bay, part Thoroughbred, which Phil Johnson bought from Alex Sysin of Altadena. They are a good pair.

Announcer, a bay Thoroughbred gelding, owned

by Bob and Lynn Logan.

A two-year-old chestnut mare which Peter Lert brought from Bay Meadows.

The Holiday Matinee, a goodwill meeting for riders and friends of Cressmount, will be held on Sunday, January 5, 1947, at 2:00 p.m. There will be refreshments; no admission charge; everybody welcome.

LEONA STABLES: The Leona Riders will hold their annual Christmas party in Sequoia Lodge a week before Christmas day—cards are in the mail telling the members of this popular party. Each person will furnish a gift, which will be exchanged, before a lighted tree, and the group will sing carols. Good refreshments are promised and all members and their friends are invited. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Murray are in charge of arrangements assisted by Mr. and Mrs. M. Waldren, Mr. and Mrs. A. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Don Phelps, Elsie Mesquita, and Lee Fowler, and others

INTERESTING PEOPLE: Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Tasney have an interesting shop for horse owners at 5922 East 14th Street, Oakland. Here Mr. Tasney, in a leather jacket and smoking a cigar, sits before his leather sewing machine, and makes some of the finest leather articles and harnesses in the West, while Mrs. Tasney helps with the linings and seams and is ever eager to

chat with the visitors.

Mr. Tasney was born and reared in Oakland and attended the old Lincoln school. He was apprenticed to Sweitzer for nine years where he took advantage of training in his craft from the foremost harness maker of his time. In 1901 he began his own business near Seminary and East 14th Street, where he is to this day. Practically

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every horse lover in the Bay Area has crossed his threshold. On his shelves are saddles, bridles, chaps, pigskin for English saddles, and every kind of leather required in harness making, leather wearing apparel, bags, and luggage. To do this work Mr. Tasney uses over two hundred tools. The most frequently used of these is the round knife and the gauge. Leather is properly sewed with flax, which is pulled and rolled and threaded into the needles and stitched on two sides at one time. Mrs. Tasney, who was born in Virginia City, Nevada, takes time from her Ladies" Aid work to give special attention to the sewing of the leather, and the finishing of the seams.

This congenial couple are among those who make the hobby of horseback riding entertaining; even a torn chap, or a broken saddle, or a weakened stirrup strap can be turned into a pleasant few moments—for one can have them all fixed while taking a glimpse into a little old shop of

* * * *

other days.

SHONGEHON RAFFLE

Gathered under the umbrella at Cressmount Stables on Saturday evening, December 7, was a cheerful crowd that came for the open house and witnessed the motion pictures: a Paramount release showing Elizabeth Harrison, Mary Lou Hutton and Barbara Bechtel, who were instructed by Miss C. V. Cress, taking the jumps; a lively picture showing the Western rider at the rodeo presented by Mr. C. A. Logue for the Standard Oil Company; and a special feature on equitation from the U. S. Army cavalry training ground at Fort Riley which was made available by General G. O. Cress. Mr. Brandes made a splendid an-

The Shongehon drill team paraded without horses, and conducted the drawing for the winner of the mix master, the electric clock, and nylon hose which were raffled for the benefit of Shongehon flags. Mrs. John Allen won the mix master. The nylon hosiery were donated by Mulford's men's wear shop on Lakeshore Avenue. There were ten door prizes of groceries wrapped as Christmas packages, donated by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Logue. Refreshments were served on long tables in the ring, and the merry crowd dashed through the rain to waiting cars.

M.H.A. INSIGNIA PINS

Would you like to have one of those good looking Metropolitan Horsemen Association insignia pins? Just place your order with Mary Gale, 6053 Chabot Road, Oakland 11. Enclose \$2.15 for a gold pin, or \$2.00 for a silver pin and your order will be filled immediately.

SHRINE RANGERS RIDE AGAIN

Riding the flag at full gallop during the half period in the Kezar Stadium's arena on New Year's Day will be the Shrine Rangers—this exhibition will mark their sixth consecutive appearance in the spectacular pageant which has be-come a very important part of the program of the East-West Shrine Football Game at the Kezar Stadium on New Year's Day.

QUARTER RACING

Quarter Racing is not new in America—its tradition goes back to earliest colonial times when saddle ponies were matched and raced down backwoods village streets. Organized Quarter Racing, however, is still in its infancy and this booklet is dedicated to the purpose of helping it along towards maturity.

The revival of Quarter Racing as a Sport is largely due to new interest in the Quarter Horse caused by the efforts of the American Quarter Horse Association to establish him as a Breed. This in-

terest has caused a demand for standardized competition to test performance and has led to the formation of the American Quarter Racing As-

sociation.

Traditional Quarter Racing consisted almost entirely of two horses matched racing—run informally wherever there was a long enough straightaway. Lack of standardized rules and regulations and supervision by a body with the power to enforce decisions of the judges encouraged ringing, race fixing and other unsportsmanlike and dishonest practices. In addition, the "matching" of races was an unsatisfactory system which did not insure enough competition to justify the training of any but top horses.

The Quarter Horse is the "poor man's race horse" due to the fact that he is an ideal working cowhorse or saddle horse off the race track and may be trained for competition by the owner without expensive equipment or the need of professional trainers and riders. All that is needed is enough competition, properly regulated to give him a run for his money against horses of his own class, and Quarter Racing becomes a popular

"Sport."

Organized Quarter Racing was started a few years ago at Tucson, Arizona, on an experimental basis and has proved so popular that it is now spreading all over the country. The American Quarter Racing Association has been formed to standardize competition and encourage cooperation between Quarter Tracks. Races are run in an orderly fashion-purses are offered by the Track, to which relatively low entry fees are added in Stakes Races-horses are classified and run in grand handicaps to insure close competitionstarts are made from a closed gate and any interference or dishonest conduct on the track is severely penalized.

By Melville H. Haskell in "The Quarter Running Horse," published by the American Quarter Racing Association. Reprinted from "The

Horsemen's Exchange."

"HATS OFF!" TO A NEWLY ORGANIZED ASSOCIATION

From all indications, 1947 is to be a very active year for the San Leandro Horsemen's Association membership. The newly elected officers for 1947 are certainly starting off on the right trail. Colorful riding uniforms will soon be ready for coming drills and parades, and plans will soon be com-pleted for another great barn dance to be held in the very near future. The activities committee is planning to make the coming dance an even greater affair than the swell Western Barn Dance given last May. WATCH YOUR TRAILBLAZER FOR THE DATE — AND PLAN TO BE THERE!

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A MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

The November issue of the Trailblazer contained a membership envelope for the convenience of members in mailing their 1947 membership check to the association. If you haven't mailed that renewal check in, do it now. LET'S GET A HEAD START ON THE COMING YEAR.

ADULTS \$3.00 JUNIORS 1.00

THE ALISAL

Many of our members have visited the Alisal Cattle Guest Ranch and have enthusiastically recommended this beautiful spot to friends upon their return home. We thought that you might

like to know about it too!

"ALISAL" is Spanish for "grove of sycamores,"
and the main buildings of the Alisal are found comfortably tucked away beneath these famous giant trees. The Alisal with its 10,000 acres was part of a Spanish land grant to Raimundo Carrillo, grandfather of today's famous actor Leo Carrillo. The Ranch from its founding has not only been a great cattle Ranch but one of California's most famous horse ranches. The famous trotting mare Lou Dillon whose world record has never been broken was born and bred on The Alisal. Flying Ebony, Kentucky Derby winner, was another great Alisal horse. For many years nothing but thoroughbred horses were used in working cattle on The Alisal and used successfully.

A vacation at The Alisal combines all the comforts of home with the splendor of the wild outdoor life of the range-country so loved by all horsemen. Located in the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County, the ranch sprawls over 10,000 acres in the shadow of the high Santa Ynez Mountains. Famous Santa Ynez Mission is but three miles from Alisal, and the warm sunshine of the valley bathes the fifty miles of trails leading through a county rich in the lore of early Spanish

California.

Our friends report that informality is the keynote of life and dress at The Alisal—no dressing for meals or evening dances. "Boots and jeans" are visible morning, noon and night. There is only one rule—BE COMFORTABLE!

The Ranch has always been noted for its fine horses and a fine string of Western bred Mounts are available for guest riders. Seems that once you have found the horse you like best, it's yours for the length of your stay. Good food (and lots of it!!), swimming, picnics, barbecues, over-night rides, the Annual Round-up and Fiesta are all to be enjoyed at The Alisal, open Winter and Summer.

And there are ranch rodeos every Sunday for

guests and the public!

As for the people, well, a more friendly and congenial group cannot be found anywhere. Lynn Gillham and his lovely wife, Patsy, are your hosts at The Alisal—their hospitality is overwhelming. We recommend them to you! Their sixteen years of experience in making people comfortable and happy while enjoying ranch life have made The Alisal an altogether delightful and enchanting spot for one's week-end trip as well as summer or winter vacation visits.

Hm-m-m-m! makes one want to take that vacation right now-doesn't it?

The War Pony of The Plains Indian

We have from all sources accurate and consistent accounts of the extraordinary riding of the Plains Indian. The picture painted by historians is indeed a colorful one: "A piece of buffalo-robe girthed with a rope over the pony's back stood in lieu of a saldle, if even so much was used; a cord of twisted hair lashed round its lower jaw served both for bit and bridle. When hunting, in fact as a rule, the Inlian wore naught but a breech-cloth and moccasinsnot to lay stress on paint and feathers—and carried a buffalo-skin which he threw around his shoulders or let fall from about his waist. A heavy whip with elk-horn handle and knotted bull's-hide lash hung by a loop to the Indian's wrist. His bow and arrows gave full occupation to his hands; he was forced to guide his pony with legs and word alone, and to rely on its intelligence and the training he had given it to do the right thing at the right moment. Thus slenderly equipped, this superb rider dashed into the midst of a herd of buffaloes—a seething, tearing, volcanic mass of motion, of which no one who has not seen it can conceive an idea; but so quick was the pony so strong the seat of his master, that, despite the stampede of the terror-stricken herd and the charges of the enraged and wounded bulls, few accidents ever occurred. His riding is not an art, it is nature."

SPREAD OF THE HORSE AMONG NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS:

The first modern horses to land on this continent were brought by Cortez, and participated in the conquest of Mexico. Ferdinand de Soto brought horses to Florida and used them on his long march to the Mississippi. After his death, his followers crossed over and abandoned the horses in the region now known as Texas. These horses, together with those coming in from Mexico, were the progenitors of the bands of wild horses that gradually spread over the prairies and became known as Mustangs and furnished the mounts of many Indian tribes.

TRAINING:

The Indian never developed a system of training his ponies. Each man taught his own to suit himself, and except under imitation of some chief who had exceptional success in training his ponies or a certain trick perhaps shown by father to son and thus perpetuated, there was none but individual knack in his horsemanship. The plains pony was quickly taught after a rough-and-ready tashion, more by cruelty than kindness. Before the Indian could trade for or steal a bit, he always used the jaw-rope-or nothing. With the rope in the left hand, he bore against the neck to turn to one side, and gave a pull to turn to the other; or else he shifted his pony's croup by a more or less vigorous kick with either heel. When both his hands were busy, he relied entirely upon his legs and the pony's knowledge of the business in hand; but as every Indian digs his heels into the horse's flanks and lashes him with the quirt at every stride, it is hard to see how the pony caught on to his meaning

However, the Hidatsa, a branch of the Sioux, had a definite method of training. Their two-year olds were, as a rule, broken by boys from the ages of fourteen to sevenieen—at times even younger. The boys would drive the colts into deep water, jump up on their backs, and let the colts swim back to shore.

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This procedure was repeated time and time again until the horse became weary. At this stage of their training, with the help of the weight of an additional rider, the colt was ridden back and forth over the sandbanks until he was utterly exhausted. These three-hour lessons went on for several days, after which the Indians felt the colts were sufficiently broken.

In training for war, the horses were taught to dance, thereby making him a more difficult mark. This was accomplished by kicking the horse with the heels, whistling for him to go forward, and, at the same time, jerking the reins to make him stop. The horse would then leap and prance, moving fore legs together and the hind legs alternatetly, swaying his body from side to side. War ponies were also taught to rear. This movement was obtained by whistling and drawing the reins back steadily, not jerkily. Warriors would oftentimes dress up and parade thru the village. The ponies would dance, leap and paw, much to the admiration of the tribe. The warrior induced the pony to paw simply by thrusting the toe of one foot under the fore leg of his mount.

To turn left and right quickly and stop short was another accomplishment of the war pony. The rider would simply shift his weight from side to side, the horse obeying without the use of reins. Horses when racing at a break-neck speed, suddenly confronted by a chasm, instinctively leap across, regardless of the impossibility of making the leap. As a result, all ponies were trained to stop short. This was obtained by putting a blanket on the ground, racing the pony up to it, and stopping suddenly.

The war pony was also taught to leap over the enemy, for if a warrior did not actually strike the fallen foe, the horse leaping over the enemy would

count as a coup.

FEATS OF HORSEMANSHIP:

The warrior in battle always rode without a saddle, sitting forward and riding on the thighs. It was a point of honor with him not to leave his dead or wounded in the hands of the enemy, liable to butchery or deprived of the rites of burial; and he would pick up a warrior from the ground without dismounting, almost without slacking speed; throw him across his pony and gallop off. This required and received much practice.

The Indian had various ways of mounting, but always did so from the off side. The simplest method was to put the left elbow forward over the back of the horse, seize the horse's mane with the right hand, and leap up lying on abdomen, traversely over the horse's back, and then throw left leg over and rise to a sitting position. Vaulting on and off was much faster and more useful for warfare. At times the Indian would also mount by running forward and placing both hands on the horse's hips, and leap on from behind.

NAMING HORSES:

The Indian had a very interesting way of naming his horses. Some were named for their peculiarities, and others for their color or markings. "Deer Horse," for instance, was so named because he was fast enough to overtake a deer. Other examples are: "Split Ears," "White Belly," "Dark Face," "Much Mane," and "Female-that-is-old," a name used to donate the horse's age.

BREEDING:

The Indian showed no interest in breeding. As a result, his horse was a poor-looking specimen. This, however, was not true of the Comanche tribe. They knew more about breeding than any of the other Indians. The Pinto horse was much prized by all tribes, particularly the Comanche.

BRIDLE AND HALTER:

The Indian pony's bridle and halter consisted of a lariat twisted around the mouth in any one of many

ways.

The Indian's pony was turned out to pasture and always hobbled. This was done by simply binding the horse's foot below the joint with soft tenting. Both forelegs were hobbled, with the hobbles placed about fifteen inches apart.

SADDLE SKINS AND SADDLES:

There were two types of saddle used by the Hidatsa tribe; first, the hunting or racing saddle which consisted of a pad of soft skins stuffed with antelope hair—(This saddle was, as a rule, dispensed with in battle); second, the horn, better known as a woman's or pack saddle.

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